As friends and families come together throughout Illinois, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) is encouraging Americans from all walks of life to give back to their communities and to our veterans, who have given so much to secure the freedoms we enjoy every day.

"In this time of giving, we must not forget our veterans, who have sacrificed so much so we may celebrate occasions like these as a free and prosperous people," said Halvorson. "Regardless of where or how you give back, we should take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of our veterans, and ensure they are honored for their service."

Halvorson joined the USO and her fellow members of Congress in putting together care packages to go to troops in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other overseas bases. The packages, which contained hygiene products, snack items and refreshments, were sent as a special "USO Care Package for Women" effort to support female soldiers serving overseas.

As the only member of Congress from Illinois on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Halvorson has worked to expand health care coverage, educational opportunities, and ease the economic burden for all of our veterans and their families.